

CITY OF REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION

MINUTES — April 28, 2004 **Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Gary Smith, Julie Barnfather (arrived at 8:05 p.m.), Kris Colt, Glenn Eades, Ken Bechmann

ABSENT: Sue Chenault, Maureen McCoy; Youth Advocate Emily Thompson

CITY STAFF: Tim Cox, Manager of Parks Planning; Linda Gorremans, Parks Planning; Pam Maybee, Recording Secretary

AUDIENCE: None

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gary Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Trails Commission (RTC) at 7:10 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Redmond Trails Commission minutes of March 31, 2004 were approved with the following amendments:

- Page 3, V.B., 4th paragraph: delete “aggressively”

Motion for approval of March 31, 2004 RTC minutes as amended by:
Commissioner Eades

Second by: Commissioner Bechmann

Motion carried: Unanimous 4-0

III. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None present

IV. ITEMS OF INTEREST/HANDOUTS

A. Council Principles and Strategies

Cox presented a handout generated from a City Council retreat that itemized principles and strategies which the Council would use in its decision making. Eades observed trails as viable and useful in all the strategies listed. Commissioners were especially pleased to see the focus on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad right-of-way (BNSF) in strategy #2, and the word "connected" as a positive force for the incorporation of trails in the community.

B. Backbone Trail Data Update

Linda Gorremans, Park Planner, reported she is working with Eric McConaghy, the GIS graphics technician, to measure the City's trails in all categories. The City will soon have an accurate estimate of the trail mileage of every category of trails within its limits. The mileage will provide an inventory of how much more trail mileage is needed within the timeframes of the PRO and Comp Plans. When the inventory is measured against the goals, it will significantly help in developing a bond issue. It may also lead to additional recommendations of park impact fees.

Representatives from the Park Board met with representatives of Trust for Public Lands (TPL) to consider park bond elements. There may be a need to levy adjustments by the City. Cox noted it may be poor timing for the bond with the other issues facing the City. Staff will know more in one month when the TPL reports back to the Park Board with their findings. ***Staff will keep RTC apprised.*** The Bear-Evans Creek Trail (BECT) is the most important project on the priority list, as there are portions yet to be acquired. Cox gave those cost estimates to Joel Pfundt, Planning Department, to incorporate into the TIP.

Gorremans will have a trail mileage update next month.

C. Slough House Property

Cox reported the purchase of the slough house property rests on the determination of the Dudley Carter artwork ownership. Whoever assumes ownership must assume high maintenance costs. King County has to segregate out the trail since the trail is within the property.

V. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

A. National Trails Day – June 5, 2004

Clarification on the Trails Day 2004 event was reported as follows:

- Park Maintenance and Operations will provide one tent, chairs, etc. Gorremans will contact Chris Tolonen, Park Operations, to set up and take down the site.
- Gorremans has registered the event on the American Hiking web site. The organization will send a National Trails Day banner.

- Staff will provide a map to public restroom facilities (e.g., the library, Marymoor Park, etc.). Bechmann asked not to include local business' restrooms for use.
- Staff will provide trail maps, bike helmet flyers, bike maps, handouts and water.
- Gorremans will follow up on the new Trails Day banner and RTC banner for display.
- Bechmann is in the process of crafting the second email to BBTC to see if they are interested in participating.

Smith noted Arnie Tomac, Pedestrian-Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) will be out of town during the event. Also, the Washington Water Trails Association will not be present. He reported that the kayak company would not have their staff in the park area, rather, closer to their retail outlet location.

Staff will distribute timeslot opportunities to PBAC and RTC for manning the booth. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in 2-hour timeslots, one to two people per timeslot (with overlap). ***The following Commissioners volunteered to man the booth during these hours:***

- Smith – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Bechmann – 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Colt – 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cox offered to assist if any vacancies. Gorremans will be out of town.

B. SR 520/SR 202 Interchange Project

Cox referenced the PBAC agenda and minutes (handout) from their meeting with Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and consultants from Parametrix. One of the non-motorized trail projects (affected by the “nickel tax”) is the interchange at SR520 / SR202. The consultants are gathering information as to the linking to the East Lake Sammamish Trail, the BNSF Railroad right of way, and other trails in the vicinity. They are looking at how WSDOT could help with implementation, e.g., incorporation of the design into their project by describing the City’s project in their environmental studies. This could set up the City for future funding. A variety of trails and bikeways are being discussed with WSDOT. Cox added it would be two to three years of environmental work. Construction of SR520 interchange would not begin until 2008. He emphasized the consultants were gathering information to put in an environmental document.

Eades interpreted a different outcome from the meeting, i.e., PBAC would not be “getting anything,” specifically, WSDOT showed no interest in accommodating the East Lake Sammamish trail continuation through its established route. WSDOT gave an alternative, which to PBAC was unacceptable. He believed that the City and Commissions would need to raise a dissenting voice, possibly getting petitions or bringing legal action. He urged City staff not to be “docile” in representing Redmond citizens.

Colt inquired about the South East Redmond development across from Redmond-Fall City Road, linking to the East Lake Sammamish Trail. ***Cox will inquire of the status of the project from the Transportation Department.***

Gorremans reported she met with East Lake Sammamish Trail representatives regarding how to make the 187th linkage. The width of the road right-of-way is within Redmond, but the tunnel (south side) connection is in the City of Sammamish. Redmond will need to work cooperatively with Sammamish.

Gorremans noted there is a possibility that a TEA-3 grant could be written jointly to hire a consultant to look at the whole corridor from Fall City to include the tunnel to the East Lake Sammamish Parkway and trail connection. Gorremans has met with Mike Lasano of King County to understand planning of the trail project. (Note: Robin Cole of King County is retiring). They also discussed the 187th street connection to the trail. Cox noted King County seemed accommodating, acknowledging City support.

Gorremans reported the City of Issaquah has an ordinance banning horses in their downtown area. The area defining "downtown" where this applies is unknown by staff at this time.

C. Transportation Master Plan (TMP)

Gorremans handed out two draft maps, (1) Existing and Proposed Bicycle Facilities and (2) Primary and Secondary Bicycle Corridors, as well as a spreadsheet of TMP events and activities. The draft bike plan will be taken to the public via an open house in conjunction with a bike rally on June 10. Both events would be advertised at the June National Trails Day event. Terri Musser, Charlier Associates (consultant), has listed questions pertaining to the information that came regarding the parks trails and the bikeway system. ***Gorremans suggested RTC allow staff to answer the questions; Commissioners agreed.***

Staff noted tonight's handout of the April 28 handout had embellishments from the original in Commissioners' packets. ***Cox invited Commissioners to look at the material and give input to Gorremans via email. Staff will email their draft responses to the questions for Commissioners' review before sending to Charlier.***

Cox clarified that backbone trails are those designed to AASHTO standards and the ones eligible for federal funding (in part, the reason for the design). In order to do that, the trails must be paved. Cox emphasized there are only three backbone trails within the City.

D. Grant Opportunities Related to Bear & Evans Creek Greenways

Gorremans reported that on May 18 staff will present to City Council the resolution to apply for IAC matching funds to the Conservation Futures Tax Levy (CFTL) grant previously submitted. Staff will ask Council to sign the resolution.

The CFTL committee will be doing site tours on May 8. If both grants are awarded, they would match funding and properties could be bought for the BECT link.

Gorremans will write a grant (TEA-21) to hire a consultant to design the paving of the trail from SR202 west to the Sammamish River Trail. Cox reported staff is also seeking RFPs (Request for Proposals) from four firms to define it. Gorremans confirmed a different route will be needed for the paved portion. ***Commissioners talked about walking the trail to get ideas for discussion prior to next month's meeting.***

Cox noted he has the King County trails maps (11" x17", with a second page) and they will be appendices to the PRO Plan. ***He will bring copies next month.***

E. PRO Plan Draft

Cox reported that City Council reviewed the PRO Plan draft at their study session last night (4/27/04). No criticism of the draft was offered. Item of interest to Council members was the methodology, which staff explained had been revised (not created). Cox noted the final draft would have color photos.

A budget based program was prepared in Section 7 (the PIP), which is tied to the CIP (Section 8).

Cox gave a brief review of all sections of the PRO Plan, especially highlighting those sections pertaining to trails. The Plan's primary purpose is for IAC eligibility; secondarily it would be used to plan for the future and to implement policy.

Eades complimented staff on the Plan, stating the document was very focused and easy to read. He asked staff to update the 65 age group activities to be more active. Colt asked staff to change the last line on page 8 to match the code for the Trails Commissioner criteria, noting the code says "a minimum of two, maximum of three, must reside in King County." She also noticed that trail definitions should be kept consistent.

Cox asked Commissioners to email their comments and corrections within the next two to three weeks, as they are anticipating Council approval in June. Smith asked that BNSF be referenced as a separate item on page 24. ***Cox will include it as a separate item or as an example.***

Cox reported the BNSF has been appraised by the City. The City will make an offer based on the appraisal, or join with other jurisdictions for a larger

purchase (Puget Sound regional proposal). Additionally, he noted BNSF has also put up for sale the railroad property on which the Spirit of Washington dinner train travels (Snohomish to Renton in two to three portions, one of which includes Redmond).

F. Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

Deferred. Joel Pfundt will present at next month's meeting.

G. Evans Creek Trail Update

Gorremans presented a handout based on the most recent information for the Evans Creek Trail schedule. Drawings and specs were received and are being review. Parametrix will make changes and re-submit to King County.

- May 5-19: Bids will be advertised
- May 25: open bids, review and award decision
- June 1: Council approval
- July 1: Construction begins

Estimates will be received for the \$1,025,000 construction portion of the project; \$700,000 is for the raised trail portion. Gorremans will work with Mike Paul, project manager, to get the total budget. A \$1.2 million budget has been set aside for the one-mile long trail construction.

H. Municipal Campus Park Master Plan

Cox presented a handout listing the provisions of the Municipal Campus Central Park, i.e., program elements, how the park would be used. The preferred alternative will be presented by Hewitt consultants to the Park Board next Thursday (May 6). ***Staff will report to RTC next month.***

I. NE 116th Update

Commissioners received a flyer from the Public Works Department for the NE 116th Street corridor project update, April 2004. There will be a public meeting on May 24. The trail would be built as frontage improvements by developers. The trail would not be built if the City comes forward to build the road. The Planning Director assures a nexus does occur to require the trail as development occurs on the north side of 116th. The City may have to provide a link in order to get a last connection or two, and would have the easement to do so.

By the time the projects are approved, under construction or in the process, 70% of the trail would be built. This opens the door for the City to do the last portion. This would occur within the next two years. The portion of land north of 116th across from Einstein Elementary and east to Avondale is owned by King County will be addressed in the future.

J. Youth Advocate Position

Colt will bring to the next meeting the application kit for the Youth Advocate position, as Emily Thompson will be leaving the Commission by June. Smith will contact Thompson and let Cox know whether or not she will be present at the May meeting.

K. Equestrian Overlay Update

Barnfather reported there was a Planning Commission public hearing tonight (4/28/04) on the Comp Plan. Cox clarified it was not related to Parks and Recreation. Colt referenced that discussion would include a trail linkage and equestrian overlay. Eades believed RTC did not have a position on this. Barnfather disagreed and stated that, although not a parks issue, it would affect the trails. She indicated, the Planning Commission would be removing the consideration of an equestrian overlay zoning district as part of the Comp Plan update in favor of replacing it with trail connections only to equestrian centers, which would be restrictive.

Colt wanted the equestrian overlay to be included in the Comp Plan updates (especially because of the future annexations that are possible), as well as add the new proposed replacement text. She had submitted comments to that end for public record as a citizen (not a Commissioner). Eades reiterated that it is not an issue for the RTC; rather, the new text is more focused while committing to equestrian connections. Barnfather emphasized that it is a trail issue because it deals with connections that open potentially land-locked horse properties within the City.

Colt wanted to see what was in the Comp Plan dealing with these trails issues, and would have liked a "heads up" from staff on the issue. Cox stated the issue has not come to staff's attention; otherwise, they would have brought it to RTC. ***He will look at the draft language section.*** Barnfather asked for more information on how this came about. ***Cox will contact Lori Peckol and/or Dianna Broadie, Planning Department, to inquire.*** He noted, however that the City would not be annexing properties outside the urban growth boundary for the next 10 years. Colt and Barnfather believed that the ruling could possibly change.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Smith at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

**THE NEXT REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING:
Wednesday, May 26, 2004
Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center
7:00 p.m.**